to concluding a gentleman's, and later actual, agreement with it, why should the German Government's short way with treaties impede the conclusion of an Anglo-German Agreement ? It was announced that Lord Halifax, in his private capacity of hunts-man, would visit Germany for the purpose of seeing a hunting exhibition which had been arranged there.

The proposed visit was made the subject of much angry com-ment and suspicious speculation. In it was seen the hand of the Cliveden Set, a mysterious entity whose activities, directed towards promoting an Anglo-German understanding, and per-haps towards emulating Nazi methods in England, needed to be, and were often, exposed. For some months the Cliveden Set bobbed about on the surface of political gossip, and then vanished. Herr von Ribbentrop, its alleged mainstay, returned to Germany to become Foreign Minister there, his assiduous cultivation of, and by, high-born and influential persons, unfruitful,[2] and Kremlin Set soon replacing Cliveden one in his esteem.

Lord Halifax went to Berlin, and paid a visit to Goering; but

[2] Ribbentrop's particular hatred of England, and the loathing he came to arouse in, particularly, those whose esteem he had sought, and perhaps to a certain extent gained, may be attributed to the fact that die Nazi regime as expounded by, and embodied in, him, seemed presentable. Subsequent disillusionment on this score equally enraged him and the disillusioned. Goering and Goebbels have the merit of looking their parts; but for a Nazi even approximately to convey the impression of an upper-class Englishman, and then outdo his less presentable associates in virulence and malignancy, was indefensible. Ribbentrop's position was a difficult one. He wanted to be a social success in London, and at the same time

ambition necessitated that he should be considered an ardent Nazi in Berlin; the former aim led him, for instance, to enter his son at an English public school rather than at one of the establishments in Germany which inculcate National Socialist views and behaviour, the latter, to give the Nazi salute when he was received by the King. Between the two aims he floundered uncomfortably, generating chagrin which later found vehement expression. The Bolsheviks have wisely refrained from sending abroad envoys likely to meet with the same difficulty; the danger of anyone, however well disposed towards the Bolshevik regime, detecting an approximate Etonian in, for instance, Litvinov or M. Maisky, is infirutesirnal.